

Application No.: 10/662,221

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Docket No.: 249212023300

**REMARKS**

In an Office Action mailed on July 2, 2004, claims 1, 7-9, 13, and 14 were rejected, and claims 2-6, 10-12, 15, and 16 were objected to. By this amendment, claims 1, 2, 7, and 13 have been amended. Claims 2 and 13 were amended to correct minor typographical errors. Claims 1-16 remain pending. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

**I. Claim Objections**

Claim 2 was objected to because of an informality. Claim 2 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

**II. Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102**

Claims 1, 7-9 and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,186,430 (the Zweighaft reference).

With regard to claims 1 and 7-9, the Examiner asserted that the Zweighaft reference, "teaches a buckler assembly comprising a retainer member 118 and a sensor assembly 120 adjacent to the retainer member." As an initial matter, note that the Zweighaft reference discloses that the "takeup leader 106" hooks on "catch 118" and "positioning lever 110" positions "tape cartridge leader 104" "to connect with "takeup leader 106." (See column 3, lines 11-17.) Note that claims 1 and 7 recite that the "retainer member" "receives the drive leader." Thus, Applicants assert that "positioning lever 110" rather than "catch 118" disclosed in the Zweighaft reference corresponds to the "retainer member" recited in claims 1 and 7.

Independent claims 1 and 7 have been amended to more clearly recite that the "retainer member" is "disposed on the buckler assembly" and the "sensor assembly" is "disposed on the buckler assembly adjacent to the retainer member." Applicants assert that the sensor 120 disclosed

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in the Zweighaft reference is not disposed on a "buckler assembly" adjacent to "positioning lever 110" or "catch 118." (See FIG. 1.)

Additionally, independent claims 1 and 7 recite that the "sensor assembly" "detects the presence of the drive leader." Applicants assert that sensor 120 and microprocessor 122 disclosed in the Zweighaft reference does not detect the presence of "tape cartridge leader 104." Instead, sensor 120 and microprocessor 122 "detects whether the tape cartridge leader is properly connected to the takeup leader." (See column 2, lines 5-7.) In particular, the Zweighaft reference discloses, "the sensing assembly provides feedback on the connection of tape cartridge leader 104 to takeup leader 106 by sensing movement within tape path 136." (See column 3, 66 - column 4, line 1.)

Thus, Applicants assert that the Zweighaft reference does not disclose each and every element of independent claims 1 and 7. Applicants also assert that claims 8 and 9 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from an allowable independent claim.

With regard to method claims 13-14, the Examiner asserted, "the method described in these claims would inherently result from the use of buckler system of Zweighaft." Applicants assert that the Zweighaft does not disclose "detecting the present of the drive leader in the buckler assembly" recited in claim 13. As noted above, the Zweighaft reference discloses detecting "whether the tape cartridge leader is properly connected to the takeup leader," but does not disclose detecting the presence of the "tape cartridge leader" in a "buckler assembly."

Thus, Applicants assert that the Zweighaft reference does not disclose each and every element of independent claim 13. Applicants also assert that claim 14 is allowable for at least the reason that it depends from an allowable independent claim.

### **III. Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner objected to claims 2-6, 10-12 and 15-16 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants assert that these claims depend from allowable independent claims, and thus are allowable.

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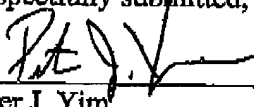
**IV. Conclusion**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 249212023300. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: October 1, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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